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28 April 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence

FROM : Howard Stoertz, Jr.  
National Intelligence Officer for  
Strategic Programs

SUBJECT : DCI Comments on Senate Select Committee on  
Intelligence Report, "The National Intelligence  
Estimates - B Team Episode Concerning Soviet  
Strategic Capabilities and Objectives"

1. The proposed letter from the DCI to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence commenting on its report will take into consideration the following:

a. The DCI and the D/DCI/NI are attempting to improve national intelligence -- to make it more responsive to the needs of the Administration and the Congress -- and welcome recommendations of the Senate Select Committee.

b. The DCI and the D/DCI/NI had no responsibility for the issuances or the experiment evaluated by the Committee staff, therefore, they should not take a defensive stance against the charges in the committee report. They should pledge to take the Committee's findings and recommendations into consideration in deciding on the best organization and procedures for producing national intelligence.

c. The DCI should identify some of the recommendations of the committee with which he agrees -- the need for NIEs which address the overall objectives and policies of the Soviet Union, the need to involve more outside experts in the production of national intelligence etc. -- or those with which he disagrees.

d. The DCI should point out any factual errors in the Committee report.

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e. The DCI should convey to the Committee the comments of those responsible for the 1976 experiment and NIE 11-3/8-76 taking issue with certain evaluations and conclusions believed to be erroneous, without subscribing to them.

f. In sum, the DCI response to the Committee report should (1) compliment the Committee effort, (2) express agreement or disagreement with certain of the recommendations in the report without prejudicing his decisions about changes in the organization and procedures for producing national intelligence, (3) forward proposed changes to correct factual errors in the report, (4) convey without DCI comments, disagreements with certain of the evaluations and findings of the report, and (5) suggest that Committee consider revising its report in light of the comments forwarded.

2. Accordingly, the proposed reply would consist of the following:

- A letter of no more than two pages
- Attachment I proposing changes to correct factual errors in the report.
- Attachment 2 containing disagreements with evaluations and findings concerning the experiment and past NIEs and pointing out those portions of the report regarded as particularly noteworthy.

Howard Stoertz, Jr.

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